UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Radio Service
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1939.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

SUBJECT: "FOOD SHOPPING TIPS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D.A. and the Consumers' Counsel, A.A.A.

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Get out your pad and pencil, homemakers. Here's news for your market list. Here are more tips on supplies and prices of the spring and summer foods coming on the market.

The first news is about fruit. Fruit growers are counting on good, or at least fair crops this season. In all the important producing States except Idaho and Utah, they're expecting a lot of cherries. California is counting on a big crop of grapes this year, too--grapes to eat fresh, and grapes for raisins, and grapes for wine. California and Northwest pear-growers are expecting their pear trees to bear well this spring, too. So keep your eye out for cherries, grapes and pears. Fresh cherries have already started coming into market. Early June brings the first table grapes. And July brings the first pears.

Peaches, too, are promising this season. The 10 southern States that produce the earliest peaches and also most of the table peaches--these States expect a larger peach crop than last year, in fact a larger-than-average crop. The exception is Georgia, the biggest peach State. Georgia will probably have fewer peaches this year. By the way, the first shipments of southern peaches have already started to market.

Here's some news about melons. Not so many early melons this year. The crop is below average in size. The first cantaloupes come mostly from California's Imperial Valley while the first watermelons come from Florida. During June you'll probably find both California cantaloupes and Florida watermelon selling in your

markets for heavy shipments are underway in June.

Perhaps the biggest fruit news of all this month is about strawberries. More strawberries going to market this year than last. And more States shipping. Because of the cool weather, the berry season in some of the more northern States is a little late getting underway, but when the berries are ripe, there'll be a lot of them.

That's about all the news of fruit I have today. But here are some tips about the vegetable situation. The predictions are for about average size crops of spring and summer vegetables, excluding local truck-garden production. Some vegetable crops in the central and eastern States got a late start this year. In the West crops are well advanced but some of them are badly in need of rain. Along now vegetables begin coming in from local growers instead of so many from distant States.

Here's a little news about asparagus and green peppers. Lots of asparagus until July but not so many peppers. Asparagus production is considerably above average except in New Jersey which is usually the most important asparagus State at this season. Not so much New Jersey asparagus this year as last.

As for green peppers, those vegetables that are one of our best sources of vitamin C, not so many of them are on the market this month. Most of them come from Florida at this time of year and that State is shipping fewer than it did last year.

Not so many potatoes either as last year. The season for old potatoes, of course, is practically over, and the new potatoes aren't coming in in such abundance as they did last spring.

Now some news about eggs and meat and milk.

Lots of eggs this spring. More than last spring. On May first egg production was about 5 percent larger than a year ago and only slightly below its

April level. Usually egg production starts falling off at this time of year and reaches its low point in November or December. But egg production during the rest of 1939 is expected to be larger than last year because of a larger number of laying hens.

As for milk, there's lots of that, too. In fact, milk production is making a record for this period of year, and it looks as if all summer long there would be more milk than last year. On May first the milk production was only one percent short of the high record for this month set in 1931. As a rule milk production increases seasonally during the first half of the year, reaches its peak in June, and then tapers off during the last half of the year. Prices of dairy products generally are at their low point in June and July. So if you are planning low-cost meals, June and July are the months to feature milk and cheese dishes, milk drinks, cottage cheese, and all the good things you can make with butter.

Finally, here's some news about meat. More pork, better-grade beef, chicken and lamb will be coming to market. Compared with last year, the markets will have larger supplies of better-grade beef, poultry, and pork, and smaller supplies of lower-grade beef and lamb.

That's all the food shopping notes I have today. But in a couple of weeks I'll be back with more.